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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board  
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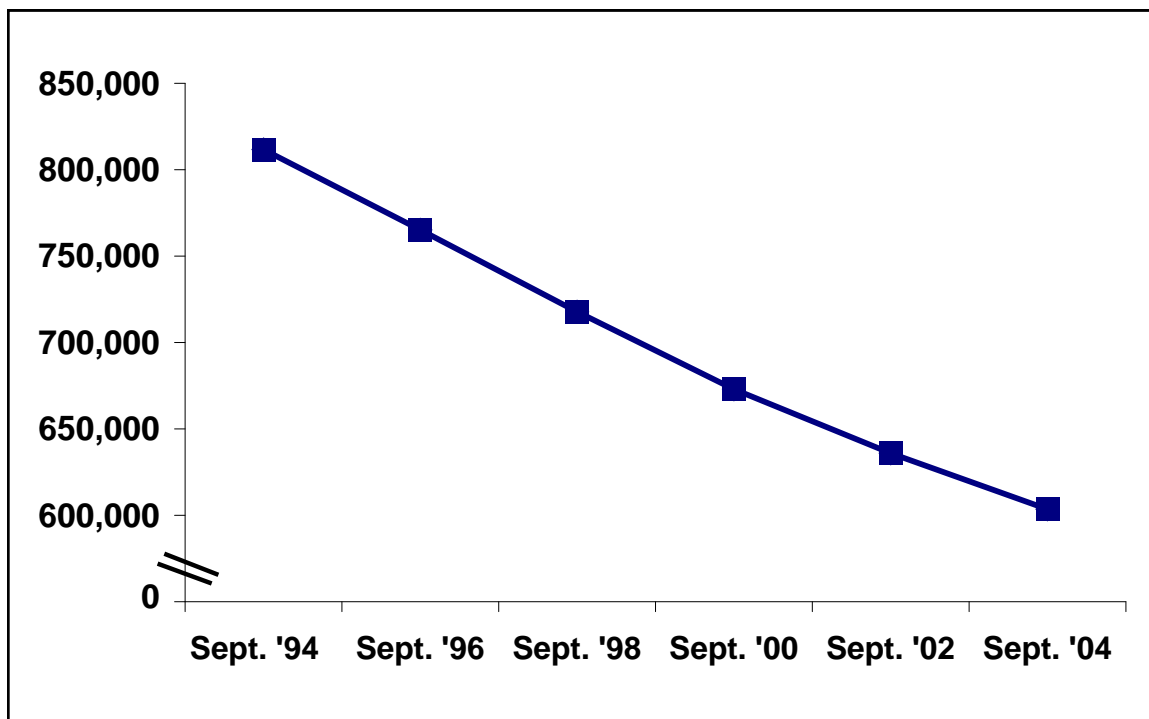
## Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs Selected Current Statistics for July - September 2004

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### Total Monthly Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries, September 1994 through September 2004



**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
July - September 2004**

Period	Total <sup>1</sup>		Employee annuities				Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Age	Disability <sup>2</sup>		Supplemental		
				Under full retirement age	Full retirement age and over			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2004	736,788	603,516	204,650	48,062	35,240	125,992	139,414	3,467
August 2004	738,156	604,656	205,014	48,064	35,274	126,202	139,753	3,451
July 2004	738,555	605,060	205,133	47,943	35,262	126,194	139,771	3,450
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2004	.....	.....	\$1,619.00	\$1,953.85	\$1,475.21	\$41.86	\$625.77	\$377.77
August 2004	.....	.....	1,615.53	1,951.53	1,472.30	41.87	624.90	377.12
July 2004	.....	.....	1,611.91	1,949.51	1,469.78	41.87	623.76	378.27
Number awarded during period								
September 2004	3,266	2,687	804	373	.....	579	703	51
August 2004	3,354	2,723	770	396	.....	631	781	36
July 2004	3,321	2,713	824	376	.....	608	704	37
10/03 - 9/04	36,076	30,463	7,797	4,751	.....	5,613	8,135	433
10/02 - 9/03	37,842	31,676	8,259	4,938	.....	6,166	8,306	424
Average amount awarded during period <sup>3</sup>								
September 2004	.....	.....	\$2,241.68	\$2,166.74	.....	\$41.24	\$755.10	\$417.56
August 2004	.....	.....	2,327.04	2,144.04	.....	41.21	757.64	359.34
July 2004	.....	.....	2,293.66	2,093.13	.....	41.58	795.29	421.14
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
September 2004	\$755,724	.....	\$332,442	\$99,484	\$51,780	\$5,310	\$88,187	\$1,382
August 2004	753,355	.....	331,559	98,387	51,688	5,270	88,131	1,351
July 2004	756,430	.....	332,241	100,201	51,582	5,294	88,127	1,361
10/03 - 9/04	9,008,296	.....	3,965,778	1,156,593	618,966	63,912	1,055,406	16,222
10/02 - 9/03	8,862,893	.....	3,910,406	1,079,149	607,365	66,525	1,046,604	15,949

<sup>1</sup>Includes dependent parents' and survivor (option) annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. <sup>2</sup>Full retirement age, also known as normal retirement age, is gradually increasing from age 65 to age 67 over a 22 year period. For those born 1/2/1939-1/1/1940, the normal retirement age is 65 and 4 months. <sup>3</sup>Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates.

**NOTE** --MONTHLY BENEFITS in CURRENT-PAYMENT STATUS at the end of month include all benefits awarded to date and payable for the month.

BENEFITS AWARDED consist of those certified for the first time on either a partial or final basis.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS for a month, shown in both the benefit and financial statistics, consist of recurrent monthly checks dated the first of the month, plus retroactive and lump-sum payments made during the month, less returned checks (excluding those not yet distributed by Account), refunds of benefits paid previously, etc. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics**  
**July - September 2004 -- Continued**

Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2004	146,943	4,936	1,050	5,256	9,550	12,176	.....	.....
August 2004	147,346	4,942	1,057	5,270	9,566	12,166	.....	.....
July 2004	147,749	4,949	1,032	5,278	9,553	12,191	.....	.....
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2004	\$1,025.55	\$865.07	\$1,337.24	\$673.16	\$674.16	\$765.64	.....	.....
August 2004	1,023.06	862.60	1,330.52	671.61	673.49	764.45	.....	.....
July 2004	1,020.64	860.72	1,318.98	669.57	672.77	763.62	.....	.....
Number awarded during period								
September 2004	594	23	15	21	49	53	441	1
August 2004	577	15	15	27	53	52	455	6
July 2004	587	19	18	25	52	71	409	5
10/03 - 9/04	7,322	218	184	258	700	660	5,109	62
10/02 - 9/03	7,803	244	162	216	679	644	5,265	81
Average amount awarded during period <sup>3</sup>								
September 2004	\$1,415.41	\$1,238.96	\$1,553.54	\$886.86	\$779.27	\$985.88	\$897	\$3,754
August 2004	1,364.22	1,132.36	1,593.72	810.26	850.70	1,030.30	883	3,436
July 2004	1,380.55	1,225.53	1,548.26	833.76	929.83	1,011.08	875	2,528
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
September 2004	\$150,884	\$4,508	\$1,526	\$3,585	\$6,545	\$9,635	\$409	\$4
August 2004	150,803	4,376	1,499	3,583	6,535	9,701	411	21
July 2004	151,015	4,473	1,515	3,596	6,568	10,041	368	13
10/03 - 9/04	1,816,438	53,318	17,628	42,871	77,442	118,330	4,659	184
10/02 - 9/03	1,825,582	52,942	17,195	42,753	74,668	118,203	4,794	292

**NOTE**.--(Continued from previous page.)

FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS aged 60 and over and WIDOWED MOTHERS and FATHERS, the number of benefits being paid and benefit payments include benefits temporarily being continued at spouse annuity rates, pending award of survivor annuities.

INSURANCE LUMP SUMS and RESIDUAL PAYMENTS are each counted only once with respect to an employee's death even though divided among 2 or more persons. Award data for insurance lump sums exclude deferred benefits, i.e., those payable a year after the employee's death.

Data on benefit payments are for CALENDAR MONTHS; all other data are for ACCOUNTING MONTHS ending on approximately the 20th of each month.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**July - September 2004 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	September 2004	August 2004	July 2004	October 2003 - September 2004	October 2002 - September 2003
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period<sup>1</sup></b>	\$524,798	\$587,825	\$424,445	\$502,210	\$18,640,409
<b>Income, total</b>	527,194	339,924	572,085	5,578,364	4,414,577
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	176,873	215,550	262,451	2,296,986	2,333,414
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	64,000	314,000	318,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	97,033	96,733	97,165	1,164,800	1,162,710
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	29,000	26,000	147,000	1,564,044	300,002
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>4</sup>	223,000	.....	.....	223,000	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>5</sup>	-2	-76	51	8	39
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury <sup>6</sup>	36	15	15	450	398
Repayment of loan from RUI Account <sup>7</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,181
Interest on investments <sup>8</sup>	1,255	1,701	1,404	15,076	291,833
<b>Outgo, total</b>	426,372	402,950	408,705	5,454,954	22,552,776
Benefit payments-regular	282,812	296,037	298,309	3,538,442	3,437,545
Benefit payments-supplemental	5,310	5,270	5,294	63,912	66,525
Payments of SSA benefits	96,858	96,916	97,057	1,164,725	1,162,651
Transfers to National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	586,000	17,750,000
Financial interchange adjustment	36,574	.....	.....	36,574	72,098
Administrative expenses <sup>9</sup>	4,599	4,437	7,551	61,720	60,341
Funding for Office of Inspector General	219	290	494	3,582	3,615
<b>Balance at end of period<sup>1</sup></b>	625,621	524,798	587,825	625,621	502,210
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>10</sup></b>	\$25,019,719	\$24,648,204	\$24,462,707	\$25,019,719	\$23,016,499
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT<sup>11</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$1,024	\$1,058	\$1,075	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments <sup>12</sup>	9,325	9,392	7,471	\$108,300	\$119,144
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	2,000	10,000	12,000
Vested dual benefit payments	9,327	9,426	9,488	117,277	129,369
Balance to be returned to U.S. Treasury	1,022	.....	.....	1,022	1,775
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	.....	1,024	1,058	.....	.....

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**July - September 2004 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	September 2004	August 2004	July 2004	October 2003 - September 2004	October 2002 - September 2003
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$892,690	\$879,686	\$772,488	\$674,606	\$1,890,905
<b>Income, total</b>	488,467	457,280	553,356	9,386,627	9,242,650
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	164,595	198,728	237,530	2,119,817	2,016,007
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	28,000	121,000	112,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	284,509	256,242	285,955	3,245,744	3,236,090
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	3,843,543	3,747,318
Financial interchange adjustment	36,574	.....	.....	36,574	72,098
Interest on investments <sup>8</sup>	2,789	2,310	1,871	19,950	59,138
<b>Outgo, total</b>	682,968	444,276	446,158	9,363,044	10,458,949
Benefit payments	458,276	442,622	443,339	5,288,666	5,229,453
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	.....	.....	.....	3,409,893	3,342,384
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	418,580	426,277
Transfer to National RR Investment Trust / RR Account <sup>4</sup>	223,000	.....	.....	223,000	1,438,000
Administrative expenses <sup>9</sup>	1,624	1,564	2,665	21,787	21,519
Funding for Office of Inspector General	68	91	154	1,119	1,316
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	698,189	892,690	879,686	698,189	674,606

<sup>1</sup>Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of September 2004, liabilities were \$9,355,000. <sup>2</sup>Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. <sup>3</sup>Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. <sup>4</sup>Under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, as amended, the portion of the RR Account not needed to pay current administrative expenses is to be transferred to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (Trust). The Trust may transfer funds back to the RR Account for payment of benefits. The balance of the SSEB Account not needed to pay current benefits and administrative expenses is to be transferred to the Trust or to the RR Account. The SSEB Account transferred funds to the Trust in FY 2003 and to the RR Account in FY 2004. <sup>5</sup>Net of amounts distributed by account. <sup>6</sup>Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. <sup>7</sup>Loan repaid in entirety. Includes principal of \$7,800,000 and interest of \$381,000. <sup>8</sup>Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). RR Account: Fiscal year 2003 amounts reflect changes in market value of zero coupon bonds. <sup>9</sup>Reflects adjustments for prior periods. <sup>10</sup>Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. <sup>11</sup>Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The benefit appropriation for fiscal year 2004 was \$118.3 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 2003 was \$131.1 million. <sup>12</sup>Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. <sup>13</sup>Includes interest.

NOTE.--Data relate to CALENDAR month.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics**  
**July - September 2004**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
<b>Unemployment</b>						
September 2004	594	501	15	2,443	2,336	127
August 2004	742	4,147	1,303	2,409	2,237	199
July 2004	2,223	1,077	133	2,296	2,111	257
7/04 - 9/04	3,559	5,725	1,451	3,388	3,281	290
7/03 - 9/03	4,528	3,339	154	4,076	3,932	305
<b>Sickness</b>						
September 2004	1,997	1,650	8	6,606	6,421	254
August 2004	2,371	3,546	31	6,423	6,033	483
July 2004	6,807	3,234	233	6,085	5,551	733
7/04 - 9/04	11,175	8,430	272	9,381	9,073	795
7/03 - 9/03	12,055	9,083	289	10,075	9,792	854
	Number of payments			Averages <sup>1</sup>		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week	Benefit payments (thousands)
<b>Unemployment</b>						
September 2004	4,820	4,574	246	9.2	\$275.50	\$2,682
August 2004	4,547	4,147	400	9.0	275.80	2,252
July 2004	3,606	3,099	507	8.4	273.40	1,583
7/04 - 9/04	12,973	11,820	1,153	9.0	275.50	6,517
7/03 - 9/03	14,566	13,422	1,144	8.8	268.55	7,080
<b>Sickness</b>						
September 2004	12,795	12,280	515	9.1	\$277.80	\$3,738
August 2004	11,900	10,932	968	9.0	277.00	4,906
July 2004	10,856	9,324	1,532	8.8	275.05	3,082
7/04 - 9/04	35,551	32,536	3,015	8.9	277.70	11,726
7/03 - 9/03	38,224	34,958	3,266	8.9	270.20	12,865

<sup>1</sup>Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week=equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

**NOTE.**--An unemployment claimant files only one APPLICATION for a benefit year. A sickness claimant files an APPLICATION at the beginning of each period of continuing sickness. NORMAL BENEFIT ACCOUNTS are opened when the first payment is made.

The number of BENEFICIARIES is the count of persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits in the period. Those receiving both normal and extended benefits for unemployment or sickness are counted only once in the total for each type.

PAYMENTS generally cover 14-day registration periods. Benefits are payable for days over 7 during an employee's first 14-day registration period. Sickness benefits are paid for days of sickness after the 4th consecutive day of sickness in the first claim in each period of continuing sickness; for subsequent registration periods in the same period of continuing sickness, payments are made for all days of sickness over 4 whether or not consecutive. Unemployment benefits are paid for days of unemployment over 4. However, in the case of unemployment benefits due to a legal authorized strike, unemployment benefits are not paid until after a 14-day waiting period. Non-strikers unemployed due to an illegal strike must also serve a 14-day waiting period.

(Continued on next page.)

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**July - September 2004 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	September 2004	August 2004	July 2004	October 2003 - September 2004	October 2002 - September 2003
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$85,414	\$80,499	\$79,195	\$47,921	\$19,368
<b>Income, total</b>	4,624	12,174	6,152	119,910	132,515
Contributions	3,685	13,165	4,553	109,191	122,638
Interest on investments	1,198	29	1,196	5,148	3,444
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>1</sup>	-259	-1,021	403	-1,037	788
Transfers from Administration Fund	.....	.....	.....	6,608	5,645
<b>Outgo, total</b>	6,501	7,258	4,848	84,293	103,962
Unemployment benefit payments	2,682	2,252	1,583	37,701	44,319
Sickness benefit payments	3,738	4,906	3,082	45,274	50,070
Repayment of RRA loan	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,800
Payment of interest on RRA loan	.....	.....	.....	.....	381
Funding for Office of Inspector General	81	100	183	1,318	1,392
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	83,537	85,414	80,499	83,537	47,921
<b>LOANS DUE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$8,008
Loans from RRA	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest accrued	.....	.....	.....	.....	173
<b>Repayments from UI Account, total</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,181
Principal	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,800
Interest	.....	.....	.....	.....	381
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$6,606	\$4,592	\$5,403	\$8,304	\$8,043
<b>Income, total</b>	1,216	3,162	1,135	20,787	21,313
Contributions	1,128	3,162	1,051	20,356	20,659
Interest on investments	87	.....	84	432	654
<b>Outgo, total</b>	1,185	1,148	1,946	22,454	21,052
Administrative expenses	1,185	1,148	1,946	15,846	15,407
Transfers to RUI Account	.....	.....	.....	6,608	5,645
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	6,637	6,606	4,592	6,637	8,304

<sup>1</sup>Net of distributed amounts.

**NOTE.**--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.

All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

<b>Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- September 2004</b>
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**RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR**

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$755,724,000
Regular benefits	741,088,000
Vested dual benefits	9,327,000
Supplemental annuities	5,310,000

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	737,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	288,000	\$1,657
Supplemental	126,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	143,000	620
Aged widows' and widowers'	147,000	1,026
Other survivors'	33,000	757
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	604,000	.....

**UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS**

	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Sickness</b>
<b>Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$2,682,000	\$3,738,000
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	2,400	6,600
<b>Average payment per week</b>	\$276	\$278